

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary Stolen Honor days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

This is in clear violation of the federal election law, which state that no union or corporation can do "electioneering communication" sixty days prior to an election. The Sinclair group by attempting to classify this as news content is showing it extreme bias. This is further illustrated by it's not allowing 7 ABC affiliates from airing the Nightline special in April 2004 where the names were read of US soldiers killed in Iraq. That would in my mind be more news then Stolen Honor.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you for your time,